

WHITE VOTERS ALARMED.

Negro Disfranchisement Found to Work Injury—The Vote in Mississippi and Louisiana Falling Off Because White Voters Will Not Pay Their Poll Tax.

New Orleans, Nov. 28.—The people of Louisiana and Mississippi have awakened to the fact that they have overdone the disfranchisement of voters by the suffrage limitations and qualifications incorporated in their Constitution. A marked reaction has set in and the chances are that the suffrage laws will be broadened so as to bring in voters instead of shutting them out, as the policy has been. As a matter of fact, Mississippi at the election the other day adopted an Amendment to its Constitution, which while it does not affect the suffrage directly reaches it indirectly, and is in conflict with the spirit of its present Constitution, which was framed especially for the disfranchisement of the Negro voters. In New Orleans, at a conference of the democratic leaders, held on November 19, a demand was made for a modification of the suffrage laws so as to encourage voting instead of discouraging it. It was practically the unanimous opinion of those present that the Louisiana Suffrage law is objectionable, that it will cut the vote at future elections down to an absurd figure and that it will prove injurious to the democracy.

The complaint against the suffrage system in Mississippi are due to the discovery that while it was intended to disfranchise the Negro it is disfranchising the white voters also and is placing the control of the State in the hands of a minority, to the great disadvantage of the property interests; and that it is threatening the revenue of the public schools. The vote of Mississippi for President was 59,103—Bryan, 51,706; McKinley, 5,753 and Barker, 1,644. The vote for Congress, electing seven Congressmen, was 51,238 or 7,177 to a Representative. This is a smaller vote than Mississippi cast in 1896; and—this is what the political leaders and business men do not like—there is every indication that the vote will continue to decrease from election to election. In fine, the law intended to disfranchise the Negro vote has come home to roost and is disfranchising the white voters also.

In both Mississippi and Louisiana, in order to vote, one must be able to read and write and must have paid his poll tax for two years previous to the election. To vote in the Presidential election the other day a voter in Mississippi had to present his poll tax receipt for \$2 paid to the tax collector in 1898 and another poll tax receipt for \$2 for 1899 paid in that year. These payments must be made two years before the election, and must be by the voter himself; for any one else or for any political organization to pay or offer to pay a poll tax is a misdemeanor.

It was circulated, and rightly, that this provision would have a discouraging effect upon the Negro voter who because of his ability to read and write, would otherwise be entitled to the suffrage. The Negro is by nature and environment careless and improvident. To ask him to pay \$4 two years and one year in advance of an election, when he is not sure that he will be on hand to vote, is to ask him to act contrary to all his nature and instincts.

When the Louisiana Constitution was adopted in '98 the Mississippi poll tax provision was commended as the surest protection against Negro supremacy, and the testimony of many Missis-

issippi leaders was to the effect that it had a better influence in preventing the Negro from voting than the educational qualification. At that time there was a scare about the Populists, and most of the white Democratic voters paid their poll taxes. The Mississippi provision was adopted by the convention, which declared that voters in Louisiana must pay their poll taxes two years in advance in order to vote. To participate in the Presidential election of 1900 the voter had to pay a poll in '98 and another in '99. But when 1900 came around it was found that more than four-fifths of the white voters in New Orleans had disfranchised themselves by a failure to pay the poll taxes. This caused a panic among the politicians. It was evident that the vote of New Orleans would fall below 10,000, being limited to the owners of real estate, and it was feared that the city would go for McKinley and elect two Republican Congressmen.

DR. WILLIAMS IN TENNESSEE.

He Operates And is Dined By the Four Hundred—A Soldier From Cuba—Notes.

Nashville, Tenn., Special.—Dr. Daniel H. Williams, of Chicago, has just closed a series of lectures here to medical students of Walden University, Dr. G. W. Hubbard, president. Dr. Williams performed some difficult operation in the Boyd Hospital, recently established by Dr. R. F. Boyd. Last Saturday night the following gentlemen sat at dinner with Dr. Williams, given in his honor by the ladies of the Hospital Board of which Mrs. G. A. Henderson is president. Doctors R. F. Boyd, W. L. Council, F. A. Stewart, C. O. Hadley, H. F. Noel, G. W. Hubbard; lawyers, S. A. McElwee, George T. Robinson, J. Thomas Turner and J. C. Napier; Dr. Boyd presided, and in introducing the speakers at the close of the dinner paid the ladies of the W. H. B. a high tribute. The following toasts were responded to: "Our Guest," Dr. Stewart; "Our W. H. B.," Dr. Council; "Our Doctors," S. A. McElwee; "Founder of Meharry Medical College," Dr. Hubbard, J. C. Napier; "Founder's Wife," H. F. Noel. Response, Dr. Williams. The distinguished surgeon made a practical talk in which he recommended the founding of the hospital so much needed for the accommodation of our people and the benefit of the medical students, which he says, advances the students fifteen years. He also spoke of the importance of preparing trained nurses. The position is one of dignity and requires technical knowledge. Dr. Hubbard was introduced and made some practical remarks. He promised Meharry would prepare for educating trained nurses. Dr. Williams left for Chicago Sunday night. His skill as a surgeon is highly appreciated here by the medical fraternity and his last trip here has given new inspiration to the craft.

Sergeant Frierson of the Tenth U. S. Cavalry is in the city just from Cuba where his regiment is stationed. He stops here, his home, to see his father and from here he goes to meet his wife in St. Paul, Minn. Sergeant Frierson says he likes Cuba and had rather live there than in the States. He is on a furlough.

It seems that the recent Evans-Brownlow factional fight knocked all the enthusiasm out of the party in this State. The factions got together and sat on the Negro; but very little effort was made during the recent campaign to bring out the voters. No Negro was in it.

BISHOP M. M. MOORE DEAD.

Passes Away in Florida—An Able Financier—Great Churchman.

Bishop M. M. Moore of the African Methodist Episcopal Church, and President of the Preachers Aid Society of the same Church, died at his home in Jacksonville, Florida, November 23. He was made Bishop at the last Conference held in Columbus, Ohio in May 1900, after a successful four years' administration as Financial Secretary of the Church, with headquarters in Washington.

Bishop Marcus Marcellus Moore was born March 15, 1856, and was the eldest of fourteen children of William and Fama Moore, slaves of the Col. Henry Gee, in Quincy, Gadsden County, Fla. He entered the first private school



BISHOP M. M. MOORE.

established in Florida for Negroes by George W. Morris of Massachusetts; was a page in the Florida legislature, a student in Howard University and Cookman Institute, and was appointed sheriff of Bradford County in 1875, but was too young to qualify, and later was made railway mail agent. Licensed to preach in 1876, he became presiding elder, and 1896 was general Financial Secretary of the African Methodist Episcopal Church, which office he held until he was elected bishop of the thirteenth diocese at the General Conference, at Columbus, Ohio, in May 1900, his jurisdiction including the State of Louisiana and Liberia and Sierra Leone Africa.

Bishop Moore was the most remarkable financier the A. M. E. Church has had. He had no peers, in the matter of handling the monies of the great Church. He made his official residence in Washington City during his administration as Financial Secretary. On the two occasions of his elections to positions of honor and trust the vote accorded him, was the most flattering ever given to his predecessors. Since his elevation to the bishopric Bishop Moore has made his home in Jacksonville, Florida.

LET US REASON TOGETHER.

This is the 4th week in November and every subscriber and agent knows what this means. It means that all monthly bills must be paid. It takes money to pay bills, and The Colored American has a great many of them. Subscribers who know themselves to be in arrears should send their subscriptions in at once. This applies also to our great army of agents who have not settled for September. Don't wait to be dunned and then get mad about it. Settle up now and this means YOU.

Hon. John N. Ruffin, Consul to Asuncion, Paraguay, is still in the city.

Miss Lottie Smith of 438 I street n. w. who has been confined to her room for some weeks is out again.

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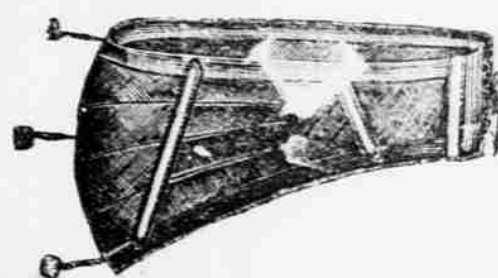
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